

Docket No. AUS920010403US1

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method to provide incentives for client machines  
5 to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer network, the method comprising:  
    receiving requests for information from a plurality of client machines;  
    determining if the client machines are contributing  
10 resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and  
    sending the requested information to the client machines, wherein priority is given to requests from clients which are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing.  
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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of giving priority to client machines which contribute resources to peer-to-peer sharing further comprises giving higher priority in proportion to the level of  
20 resources contributed.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the resources client machines may contribute to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:  
25     disk space;  
    bandwidth;  
    CPU resources;  
    memory; and  
    specified number of connecting users.

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4. A method for accessing information in a peer-to-peer computer network, the method comprising:

contributing computer resources to peer-to-peer  
5 sharing technology;

requesting information from a network server,  
wherein the request is given priority in proportion to  
the level of resources contributed to peer-to-peer  
sharing; and

10 receiving the requested information.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the  
resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;  
15 bandwidth;  
CPU resources;  
memory; and  
specified number of connecting users.

20 6. A computer program product in a computer readable  
medium for use in a data processing system, to provide  
incentives for client machines to contribute resources to  
a peer-to-peer computer network, the computer program  
product comprising:

25 instructions for receiving requests for information  
from a plurality of client machines;

instructions for determining if the client machines  
are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and

instructions for sending the requested information  
30 to the client machines, wherein priority is given to  
requests from clients which are contributing resources to  
peer-to-peer sharing.

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7. The computer program product according to claim 6,  
wherein the instructions for giving priority to client  
machines which contribute resources to peer-to-peer  
5 sharing further comprise instructions for giving higher  
priority in proportion to the level of resources  
contributed.

8. The computer program product according to claim 6,  
10 wherein the resources client machines may contribute to  
peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;  
bandwidth;  
CPU resources;  
15 memory; and  
specified number of connecting users.

9. A computer program product in a computer readable  
medium for use in a data processing system, for accessing  
20 information in a peer-to-peer computer network, the  
method comprising:

instructions for contributing computer resources to  
peer-to-peer sharing technology;

instructions for requesting information from a  
25 network server, wherein the request is given priority in  
proportion to the level of resources contributed to  
peer-to-peer sharing; and

instructions for receiving the requested  
information.

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10. The computer program product according to claim 9, wherein the resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

- 5        disk space;
- bandwidth;
- CPU resources;
- memory; and
- specified number of connecting users.

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11. A system to provide incentives for client machines to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer network, the system comprising:

- 15        a receiving component which receives requests for information from a plurality of client machines;
- a processing component which determines if the client machines are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing;
- a register which maintains a queue, wherein priority 20 is given to requests from clients which are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and
- a communications component which sends the requested information to the client machines.

- 25        12. The system according to claim 11, wherein the register which maintains the queue further comprises a second queue for requests from clients which contribute resources, wherein higher priority is given in proportion to the level of resources contributed.

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13. The system according to claim 11, wherein the resources client machines may contribute to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

- 5       disk space;
- bandwidth;
- CPU resources;
- memory; and
- specified number of connecting users.

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14. A system for accessing information in a peer-to-peer computer network, the method comprising:

- a peer-to-peer sharing component which contributes computer resources to peer-to-peer sharing technology;
- 15       a communications component which requests information from a network server, wherein the request is given priority in proportion to the level of resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing; and
- a receiving component which receives the requested
- 20       information.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

- disk space;
- 25       bandwidth;
- CPU resources;
- memory; and
- specified number of connecting users.

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